

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 September 2005 (09.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/082849 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07D 207/273,
487/10, A61P 3/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/006127

(22) International Filing Date: 23 February 2005 (23.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/547,226 23 February 2004 (23.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,
ZM, ZW.

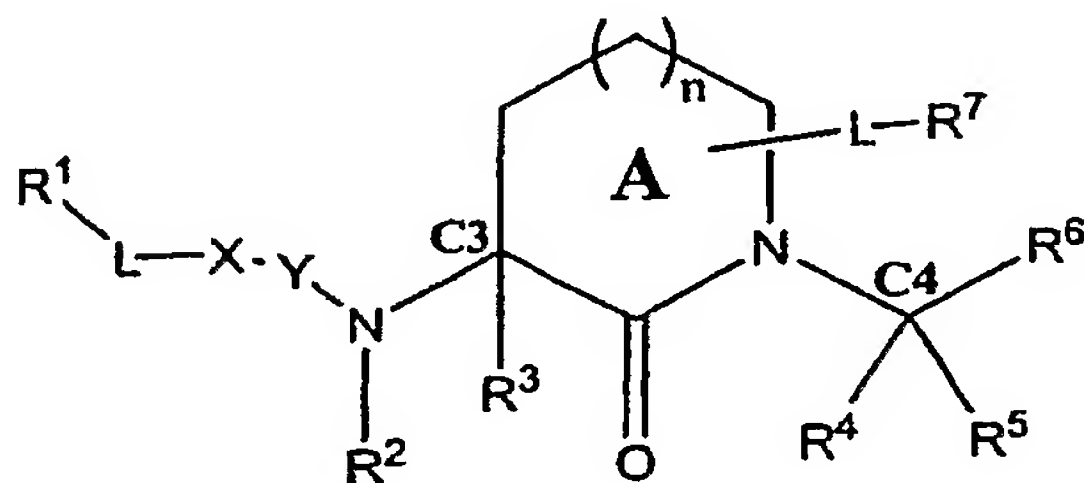
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: LACTAMS AS CONFORMATIONALLY CONSTRAINED PEPTIDOMIMETIC INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to inhibitors of post-
proline cleaving enzyme, such as inhibitors of dipeptidyl peptidase
IV, as well as pharmaceutical compositions thereof, and methods for
using such inhibitors. In particular, the inhibitors of the present in-
vention incorporate a lactam ring in the backbone of the inhibitors.
The compounds of the present invention can have a better therapeutic
index, owing in part to reduced toxicity and/or improved speci-
ficity for the targeted protease.